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VITA and Northrop Grumman Successfully Move Mainframe Services
-- Will Result in More Reliable and Secure State Government Computing Services --

RICHMOND -- Transformation of the state government's information technology (IT) infrastructure marked a significant milestone over the weekend with the successful move of mainframe computing services.

Mainframe computing services – the heart of processing and storage of critical information – shifted from downtown to the new and highly secure Commonwealth Enterprise Solutions Center (CESC) in Chester.

As a result of the move, many of the commonwealth's critical applications and confidential data now reside in and run on modern mainframes in the new, cutting edge data center for easier monitoring and maintenance.

"Just as a homeowner makes major renovations to an older home, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency and Northrop Grumman are upgrading and modernizing the commonwealth's IT infrastructure to a 21st century system," said Chief Information Officer Lem Stewart. "In fact, the last move of this size for state government to a mainframe occurred more than 20 years ago. It's time for an upgrade."

"These enhanced mainframe services are vital to ensuring that the commonwealth has an IT infrastructure that is reliable and secure – providing essential computing services to state agencies that then are able to be efficient and more responsive to citizens," said Doug McVicar, director of Northrop Grumman Information Technology's VITA program.

Stewart noted that the move was the culmination of several months of planning with state agencies. The move was almost unnoticeable to citizens, except for the planned closing this past Saturday of Department of Motor Vehicles offices.

Beginning this past Friday evening, a host of technicians from VITA, Northrop Grumman and nine other partners shut down the Richmond mainframe and worked around-the-clock to redirect network links, move data to the new mainframe and test systems to make sure that everything

was working properly. VITA and Northrop Grumman staff maintained close contact with impacted agencies and provided progress updates throughout the weekend.

A mainframe is a very large computer capable of supporting multiple operating systems and thousands of users at the same time. Mainframes are designed for high rates of data processing and have high reliability, often running years without interruption.

The move of data and applications to the new mainframe is part of the $2 billion, 10-year contract with Northrop Grumman. In this first of its kind public-private partnership, VITA and Northrop Grumman are bringing 21st century technology to bear through the modernization of the IT infrastructure, including upgraded mainframes, servers, networks, desktops, e-mail, help desk, voice and video, and facilities.

This milestone is the latest in a series that includes the construction and opening of two new facilities. The CESC houses approximately 600 employees and includes the highly secure primary mainframe and data center and VITA operations. The Southwest Enterprise Solutions Center (SWESC) in the Town of Lebanon, Russell County, is creating more than 400 new high-tech jobs in rural Virginia. It will house the primary help desk and back-up data center when it opens this month.

VITA also has greatly enhanced security and project management for state government's information technology. VITA is directed by CIO Stewart and the Information Technology Investment Board (ITIB), which is comprised of citizens appointed by the Governor and General Assembly.

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About the Virginia Information Technologies Agency
VITA is the Commonwealth's consolidated technology services and solutions provider responsible for the operation of the state's technology infrastructure, governance, security and oversight of major IT projects, and procurement of technology-related goods and services on behalf of state and local governments. http://www.vita.virginia.gov.

About Northrop Grumman
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